

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing footwear, comprising:
receiving a request from a customer for footwear;
determining at least one last associated with the customer for manufacturing the footwear; and
providing the customer with the footwear after the footwear has been manufactured with the at least one last.
2. The method of providing footwear recited in claim 1, wherein the request identifies the last associated with the customer.
3. The method of providing footwear recited in claim 1, wherein
the request provides an identity for the customer, and
the identity provided in the request is used to determine the last associated with the customer.
4. The method for providing footwear recited in claim 1, further including using the last to reform a shape of an interior of the footwear before providing the footwear to the customer.
5. The method for providing footwear recited in claim 4, wherein the last is used to reform a length of the interior of the footwear.
6. The method for providing footwear recited in claim 4, wherein the last is used to reform a width of the interior of the footwear.
7. The method for providing footwear recited in claim 6, wherein the last is used to also reform a length of the interior of the footwear.

8. The method for providing footwear recited in claim 1, further including using the last to construct the footwear from material pieces.

9. The method for providing footwear recited in claim 1, further including determining a first last associated with the customer for manufacturing a left shoe, and determining a second last associated with the customer for manufacturing a right shoe; and providing the customer with the footwear after the left shoe of the footwear has been manufactured with the first last and the right shoe of the footwear has been manufactured with the second last.

10. A shoe distribution center, comprising:
an order receiving unit which receives orders for custom fitting footwear which identify at least one last;
a footwear inventory containing one or more pieces of footwear in a variety of sizes, such that the interior of each piece of footwear incorporates a moldable fit-component that allows that piece of footwear to be remolded to lengths and widths differing from that piece of footwear's original length and width; and
a footwear manufacturing unit for remolding lengths and widths of pieces of footwear in the footwear inventory using lasts identified in orders received by the order receiving unit.

11. The shoe distribution center recited in claim 10, wherein the footwear manufacturing unit includes:

a last inventory containing a plurality of lasts that can be used to remold lengths or widths of at least some of the pieces footwear in the footwear inventory; and

a heating unit for heating the lasts to remold lengths or widths of at least some of the pieces footwear in the footwear inventory.

12. The shoe distribution center recited in claim 10, wherein the order-receiving unit includes a server computer for receiving orders for custom fitting footwear over an electronic communication network.

13. The shoe distribution center recited in claim 10, wherein the order-receiving unit includes an automated voice menu system for receiving orders for custom fitting footwear over a telephone service.

14. The shoe distribution center recited in claim 10, further comprising:
a customer/last database containing one or more customer records, such that each record includes a customer field identifying a customer and at least one last field identifying a last associated with the customer.